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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,604	06/14/2001	Sean W. March	NORT0100US (14531RRUS01U)	6409
7590	06/28/2005		EXAMINER CHANG, RICHARD	
Dan C. Hu TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C. 8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100 Houston, TX 77024			ART UNIT 2663	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/881,604

Applicant(s)

MARCH ET AL.

Examiner

Richard Chang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 25 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 14, 18 and 21-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-13, 15-17, 19 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment and arguments with respect to claims 1-14, 16-19 and 21-25 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

2. Claims 15 and 20 have been canceled by the applicants.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by US patent No. 6, 396,833 ("Zhang et al.").

Regarding claim 1, Zhang et al. teach a method of efficiently routing packets using a network routing table in systems connecting to multiple networks (dynamically protecting access to a first network (104)), comprising:

receiving, in a system (gateway (102) to multiple networks), a packet (data unit) containing a source address indicating a source of a packet (data unit),

matching the source address with information stored in the system (routing table) (gateway (82) to multiple networks), and

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enabling entry of the packet (data unit) to the first network if the source address matches the information stored in the system (routing table) and denying entry of the packet (data unit) to the first network if the source address does not match the information stored in the system (routing table) (See Fig. 3, Col. 2, line 49 - Col. 3, line 8).

Regarding claim 2, Zhang et al. further teach that matching the source address with the information comprises matching the source address with one or more entries of a network address translation mapping table (See Fig. 4, Col. 4, lines 25-66).

Regarding claim 3, Zhang et al. further teach that matching the source address comprises matching an Internet Protocol (IP) address (See Fig. 3, Col. 1, lines 13-18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 14, 18 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 6, 396,833 ("Zhang et al.") in view of US patent 6,744,767 ("Chiu et al.").

Regarding Claim 14, 18 and 21, as discussed above, Zhang et al. teach substantially all the claimed invention but did not disclose expressly the particular application involving limitations of

“a storage module to store a threshold value for a communications session, the threshold value representing an acceptable rate of incoming data units from the external network to the first network” and

“a controller adapted to deny further entry of data units from the external network to the first network in the communications session in response to the controller detecting that the rate of incoming data units exceeds the threshold value”.

Chiu et al. teach a method and networks of voice gateways (22) for bandwidth management during implementation of Quality of Service using Internet Protocol provisioning including

a storage module (54 memory buffer) (See Fig. 2, Col 5, lines 53-55) to store a threshold value (global and local thresholds) for a communications session, the threshold value representing an acceptable rate of incoming data units from the external network to the first network (maximum incoming packet rate), and

a controller (51) adapted to deny further entry of data units from the external network to the first network in the communications session in response to the controller detecting that the rate of incoming data units exceeds the threshold value (See Fig. 2, Col. 5, lines 32-58).

A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ Chiu et al. in Zhang et al. in order to obtain a method of efficiently routing packets using a network routing table in systems connecting to multiple networks and to take advantage of a memory buffer to store a global and local thresholds for a communications session, representing an acceptable maximum incoming packet rate and a controller to deny

further entry of data units from the external network to the first network in the communications session in response to the controller detecting that the rate of incoming data units exceeds the acceptable maximum incoming packet rate in claim 21.

The suggestion/motivation to do so would have been to store a global and local thresholds to a memory buffer for a communications session, representing an acceptable maximum incoming packet rate and a controller to deny further entry of data units from the external network to the first network in the communications session in response to the controller detecting that the rate of incoming data units exceeds the acceptable maximum incoming packet rate, as suggested by Chiu et al. in Fig. 2, Col. 5, lines 32-58. At the time the invention was made, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains to combine Chiu et al. with the Zhang et al. to obtain the inventions specified in claims 14, 18 and 21.

Regarding claim 22, this claim have limitation that is similar to those of claim 21 and Zhang et al. further teach that matching the source address with the information comprises matching the source address with one or more entries of a network address translation mapping table (See Fig. 4, Col. 4, lines 25-66), thus those are rejected with the same rationale applied against claim 21 above.

Regarding claim 23, this claim have limitation that is similar to those of claim 21 and Zhang et al. further teach that matching the source address comprises matching an Internet Protocol (IP) address (See Fig. 3, Col. 1, lines 13-18), thus those are rejected with the same rationale applied against claim 21 above.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 25 is allowed.

8. Claims 4-13, 15-17, 19 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and if no art rejection can be applied.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art along or in combination fails to teach or make obvious the following limitations:

"the controller is adapted to deny entry of an incoming data unit if the incoming data unit does not contain an indication of the codec type" as recited in the independent claim 25.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3129. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (571) 272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Richard Chang
Patent Examiner
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PRIMARY EXAMINER
6/27/05